

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior Listings, and versions, of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A cysteine variant of erythropoietin corresponding to amino acids 1-166 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein a cysteine residue is inserted following the last amino acid of erythropoietin; wherein said variant has biological activity *in vitro* as measured by proliferation of a cell line that proliferates in response to erythropoietin.

26-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) The cysteine variant according to ~~any one of claims 24-26~~claim 25, wherein the inserted cysteine residue is modified with a cysteine-reactive moiety.

45. (Currently Amended) The cysteine variant according to ~~any one of claims 24-26~~claim 25, wherein the inserted cysteine residue is modified with polyethylene glycol.

46. (Currently Amended) The cysteine variant according to ~~any one of claims 24-26~~claim 25, wherein said cysteine variant is modified with at least one polyethylene glycol.